

WELCOMING RABBI SANFORD AKSELRAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and introduce my friend, Rabbi Sanford Akselrad. As leader of Congregation Ner Tamid, he has been a friend, a mentor, and my rabbi for 25 years.

His vision for a campus, a spiritual hub, has been realized in his nearly 30-year career at Congregation Ner Tamid. He has led us with strength, with poise, and with wisdom as he has shared in the sorrows and joys—from the simchas to the shivas—of our entire community.

His work in both the outreach and interfaith communities has left impact and meaning on so many lives across the Las Vegas Valley and beyond.

May he continue to serve us all with grace, compassion, and strength.

Mr. Speaker, as leader of Congregation Ner Tamid, he has been a friend, a mentor, and my rabbi for 25 years.

Since moving to Las Vegas in 1988, Rabbi Akselrad has served as the spiritual leader of Congregation Ner Tamid.

His vision for a campus, a spiritual hub has been realized in his nearly 30-year career at Congregation Ner Tamid.

He has led us with strength, with poise, and with wisdom and has shared in the sorrows and joys from the simchas to the shivas of our entire community.

His work in both the Interfaith and Outreach communities has left impact and meaning on so many families across the Las Vegas Valley.

His unwavering commitment to building a strong community as our Congregation's spiritual leader and in creating a vibrant Jewish community in Southern Nevada has not gone unnoticed.

During this time, the Synagogue grew from approximately 60 to over 600 families, becoming the largest Reform Synagogue in the State of Nevada. In his nearly 27 years of service to our Congregation, Rabbi Akselrad has served on a wide variety of community boards including the Humana Hospital Pastoral Advisory Board, the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, Jewish Family Services and the National Conference of Community and Justice.

A firm believer in K'lal Israel and building a strong Jewish community, Rabbi Akselrad has spearheaded many community-wide boards, commissions, and organizations that have helped shape the Jewish community we live in today.

In the wake of the Great Recession of the late 2000's, Rabbi Akselrad envisioned Project Ezra, a partnership between the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, the Board of Rabbis, and Jewish Family Service Agency. Project Ezra helps people of all faiths secure new employment in this changing economic climate.

Rabbi Akselrad is currently a board member of the Anti-Defamation League of Las Vegas and the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada. Rabbi Akselrad has served on the National Commission on Jewish Living, Worship and Music for the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) since 1999. He has also served on the Out-

reach Committee (to interfaith families) of the URJ.

Rabbi Akselrad's community contributions and leadership are the best example of Congregation Ner Tamid's commitment to Tikkun Olam and Social Justice.

May he continue to serve us all with grace, compassion, and strength.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, March 25, marked National Medal of Honor Day. Designated by Congress in 1990, the National Medal of Honor Day celebrates each of the men and women who have earned America's highest, most prestigious military decoration.

I am grateful that South Carolina has a long tradition of military service, with 34 Medal of Honor recipients, including the youngest living honoree, Corporal Kyle Carpenter of Gilbert.

To mark National Medal of Honor Day, I join Medal of Honor recipient Major General James Livingston and South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson with a wreath-laying ceremony at Mount Pleasant Memorial Garden. The inspiring program was organized by the Fort Sullivan Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, led by Regent Nancy Herritage.

Additionally, congratulations to the University of South Carolina women's basketball team and head coach Dawn Staley on their victory in the Elite Eight last night. I am happy to cheer for the Gamecocks as they head to Dallas, Texas, for their second Final Four appearance in just 3 years.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

USE LEVERAGE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND COST OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week's healthcare disaster was instructive because, in the end, it was never really about health care at all.

Your plan was a thinly-veiled scheme to deliver a massive tax cut to health insurance executives and their cronies. UnitedHealthcare is one of America's largest, private healthcare insurance companies. UnitedHealthcare is under

investigation for defrauding Medicare and the Federal Government out of billions of dollars. UnitedHealthcare's CEO made \$66 million in 2014—one man, one salary, in 1 year—\$66 million under investigation for defrauding the Medicare program; and your bill, on page 67, in seven simple words, would have rewarded this potentially criminal behavior with a massive tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, Americans, on average, will pay more than \$10,000 per person for health care this year. Let's use the enormous leverage of the Federal Government to drive down those costs and to drive up quality for all Americans.

REMEMBERING JOHN CRUTCHER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of John Crutcher, who passed away on March 12, 2017, at the age of 100.

A native of Kansas, John spent many years in public service, including teaching in a one-room school on the prairie. He was elected to a seat in the Kansas Senate and served two terms as Lieutenant Governor in his home State. In 1982, President Reagan appointed him to the Federal Postal Rate Commission, where he gained a reputation as an outspoken critic of the Postal Service.

In World War II he served as a Navy officer in the Pacific theater and Korea. He retired as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve and always remained active in Navy organizations.

A true, very modest gentleman, John was respected and beloved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed in the mountains of North Carolina, which he came to call home after marrying his lovely wife, Edith.

KEEP THE CLEAN POWER PLAN INTACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, President Trump today plans to unravel the Clean Power Plan that, once implemented, would reduce carbon emissions by 870 million tons, the equivalent of 166 million cars.

Why? False science, false economics.

Some of the best minds of the 18th century apparently are advising President Trump on science matters. This planet is melting. We have had the worst wild weather in centuries; the three hottest years on record. Let's not deny what is before our very eyes, false economics.

President Trump apparently believes we have to make a choice: either jobs or a clean environment. The exact opposite is true; 8.1 million people worldwide work in clean energy. It will be 24 million in 2030. Solar jobs in Vermont grew at the fastest pace of any jobs.

President Trump believes we either have jobs or a clean environment. He has it exactly wrong. We have both or we have neither.

A confident nation faces its problems. It doesn't deny them. Keep the Clean Power Plan intact.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ANAND NALLATHAMBI

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Anand Nallathambi, who passed away on March 2. Mr. Nallathambi epitomized the American Dream, rising from humble beginnings to become the president and CEO of CoreLogic, a global company based in Irvine.

He led CoreLogic from its 2010 launch as a public company and transformed it into a high-performing leader in the housing market, employing over 5,000 Americans. Beyond his business leadership, Mr. Nallathambi volunteered his time generously with many organizations, including Operation HOPE and Cal State Fullerton.

He will long be remembered for his outstanding leadership, warm personality, integrity, devotion to his family and faith, and service to the community.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Nallathambi.

LEAVE REPEAL AND REPLACE EFFORTS BEHIND

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, when House Republicans withdrew TrumpCare, it was a victory for American families. It was a victory for 24 million people who would have lost coverage under that plan. It was also a victory for the millions of Americans who attended townhall meetings, who wrote letters and emails, who spoke up. Their voices were heard. But we have more work to do, Democrats and Republicans, in order to make sure that all Americans have access to affordable health care.

We need now to turn our attention to doing what we can to improve the Affordable Care Act in a bipartisan way. We have ways to make this work better. It is not a perfect bill; of course it isn't. Nothing we do here is perfect. It needs improvement, significant improvement. We have ways to make that happen that I think Democrats and Republicans can come together on.

For example, improving access to prescription drugs by reducing the cost of those drugs in the marketplace. There are so many things we can do, Republicans and Democrats. We have got to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

WAUSAU-AREA TRAGEDY

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the loss of four members of our greater-Wausau community. It was last week that four lives were taken from us all too early.

Karen Barclay was warm and caring to everyone around her. At Marathon Savings Bank, she made sure that no child left the bank without a lollipop.

Dianne Look, known as Dee-Dee, celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary last month. Dianne loved to make jewelry, raising money for the American Cancer Society.

Sara Quirt-Sann had an infectious laugh. She ran her own law practice, and she proudly served as a guardian ad litem for kids in our community.

We also lost Detective Jason Weiland of the Everest Metro Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty. Serving 18 years in what was described as his dream job, Detective Weiland wore the Everest Metro PD uniform because he wanted to protect people and keep his community safe.

On behalf of this institution, I rise to extend my deepest regrets to their families, their mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, and children, who no longer have a special member in their homes.

COMPLETE INVESTIGATION NEEDED INTO RUSSIAN CONNECTION

(Mr. RASKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, every American who loves freedom, democracy, and public integrity this week is expressing solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of anticorruption protesters in Russia who took to the streets on Sunday. That huge throng of brave Russians, including hundreds arrested and jailed by agents of Vladimir Putin, were protesting the autocrats and kleptocrats running their country, a key target being Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who has amassed vineyards, luxury yachts, and mansions worth more than \$1 billion.

We should be standing with the protesters, but the corrupt autocrats of Russia have found good friends in the billionaire Cabinet of international businessman Donald Trump, whose administration is administering a spreading staph infection: disgraced former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who was paid by Russian companies to appear at Russian events; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former CEO of ExxonMobil and a close friend of Vladimir Putin who was awarded in 2013 a title of nobility called the Russian Order of Friendship; Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign manager who collected \$10 million a year to advance the agenda of Russia and Russian oligarchs.

We should be standing with the protesters. Two-thirds of Americans want to see a complete, independent 9/11-style investigation into the Russian connection, and we owe them no less.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF NEYLE WILSON

(Mr. RICE of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and an outstanding man from my home in Horry County, South Carolina, who has dedicated his entire life to education and public service. Mr. Neyle Wilson retired last month after 14 years of serving as the president of Horry Georgetown Technical College and leaves behind a great legacy of selflessness and devotion to education in the community.

Under Mr. WILSON's direction, Horry County Technical College added nine new buildings, 40 new programs of study, and saw enrollment double. He never failed to go above and beyond to complete the task at hand. Often he was called on at the last minute to provide education or skilled workplace training to fill spots at existing local businesses or businesses looking to move to Horry County to employ South Carolinians, and he always came through.

Mr. WILSON was a credit to Horry County Technical College and the entire Grand Strand community. He led thousands of South Carolinians to meaningful jobs. Through these and his many other meaningful contributions, he will always be remembered.

CELEBRATING MONROE COUNTY DUCKS UNLIMITED

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the privilege of attending the Monroe County Ducks Unlimited annual dinner. More than 1,000 people came out to the MB&T Expo Center to celebrate our hunting and fishing heritage.

As a lifelong outdoorsman, I have been a proud supporter of conservation policies that protect our wetlands and wildlife habitats. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a model example of a public-private partnership that has been invaluable to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The GLRI has received widespread bipartisan support because of the economic and environmental benefits it brings to Lake Erie, the State of Michigan, and the entire Great Lakes region. Mr. Speaker, this critical initiative is getting results and needs to be preserved.

I want to thank Monroe County Ducks Unlimited for all of their conservation efforts, and I will continue